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Duxbury Clipper ✓

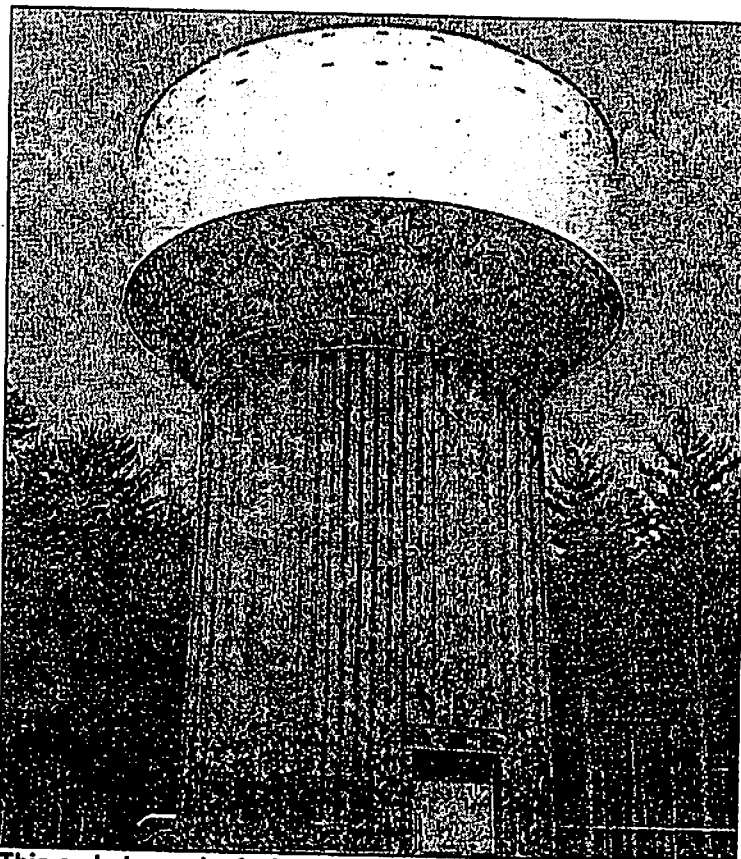
ConCom Supports Land Swap

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

Conservation Commissioners unanimously supported a land swap with the town's Water Department to facilitate the building of a new water tank.

During its meeting last Tuesday night, the Conservation Commission listened to a presentation from Water Superintendent Paul Anderson. Anderson said in order to construct a new water tank behind the existing Birch Street tank, about 16,000 square feet of conservation land was needed. Anderson proposed giving the Conservation Commission 1.65 acres of land off of Franklin Street near Jeremiah Drive in return.

"This parcel would give you access to existing conservation land," Anderson said.



This a photograph of what the proposed water tank would look like. Water Supt. Paul Anderson said the new tank would offer better water pressure for residents in West Duxbury.

Anderson said the new tank is needed to offer better water pressure to residents in the western side of town. The new tank will be 44 feet higher than the existing tank, which will help increase pressure. Currently, residents in that portion of town receive 30 to 35 pounds of pressure. The new tank would offer an additional 19 pounds of pressure to all residents in the high pressure zone, Anderson said.

"The Birch Street tank is nearing the end of its life. Hydraulically, this is certainly the way to go," said Anderson.

The other benefit to the new tank is that its design allows for all of the water to be used. The current Birch Street tank holds 1 million gallons of water, but only 80,000 gallons can be used with the rest of the water remaining at a standstill. The new tank will hold 1 million gallons, and since it is elevated, the majority of the water will be available.

"With an elevated tank, all of the water is usable because the entire tank is suspended," Anderson said.

Anderson said a separate pressure zone would need to be created for the new tank. The cost for the tank and the pressure zone is about \$2.95 million. The water department will request this amount of money at town meeting. Anderson said the department

is on the final intended use plan for the drinking water revolving fund loan program for \$3.7 million. He explained that this is a low interest loan that will save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of the loan.

The Board of Selectmen voted last Monday night during its meeting to support the article at town meeting. The land swap must be supported by the Conservation Commission, town meeting voters, the state legislature and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act office. This exchange requires multiple approvals because the swap necessitates changing the use of conservation land.

In other Conservation Commission news:

- Commissioners continued the public hearing regarding seawall repairs at the Duxbury Yacht Club to allow the Duxbury Bay Management Commission to review the proposal.

- The Conservation Commission gave a negative determination that a notice of intent was not required for a septic project at 98 Powder Point Ave.

- The commission approved \$5,100 of administrative funds to be used to pay for an intern to work three days a week in the office until May.